

PATENT SPECIFICATION



Inventor: EDWARD L. VERHAGEN

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Machines for Cleaning Floors or Carpets

We, THE REGINA CORPORATION, a Corporation of the State of New York, with offices at 54, West Cherry Street, Rahway, New Jersey, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

- 10 The present invention relates to machines for cleaning floors or carpets, for instance, floor polishing machines or vacuum cleaners, in which a long handle is secured to the machine; so that the machine may be pushed and pulled along the floor or rug at a convenient angular disposition of the handle.
15 It is an object of the present invention to provide a handle which is secured to a floor polishing machine or the like without any protruding parts around the base thereof. It is also an object of the present invention to provide a handle which is pivotally mounted and directly secured to the motor housing within the casing.
20 A further object of the present invention is to provide a construction which during operation will readily pass underneath various pieces of furniture, there being no protruding parts likely to interfere with its passage. This will enable the operator to polish or clean those areas heretofore inaccessible by such machines.

25 It has been a common fault of devices of the type here being considered, in which the handle was secured to the lower part of the machine by means of a bail or yoke, that the bail or yoke would catch and become engaged in low hanging draperies or fringes on furniture. It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a construction which completely eliminates this danger. In a device embodying the present invention the handle is mounted within the casing and is mounted directly to the motor housing; thus, there are no protruding parts that could catch or become entangled with portions of the draperies or the furniture.

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It is a further object of the invention to provide a device which may be lifted by means of a long handle without the danger of the machine pivoting or tipping. This is very important where the device is used to operate on stairs or counters. It is important that the machine remain level when lifted; otherwise the operator will experience serious difficulty moving it about by lifting.

It is also important that it remains level while in operation. Some machines heretofore in use have had a tendency to tip backwards when a force is applied on the handle to move the machine forward, or to exert a downward force on the machine to aid in polishing or cleaning effect. It is therefore a further object of the present invention to provide a machine which will remain perfectly level while in operation, no matter how great the downward component of the force exerted on the handle may become.

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan of a floor polishing machine embodying the present invention, with the casing partially broken away;

Figure 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2, Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3, Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a partially broken away side view thereof; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the casing.

The device shown in the drawings is a twin brush floor polishing machine. However, it will be readily apparent that the invention is also adaptable for use in other machines for cleaning floors or carpets.

Polishing brushes 10 are driven by motor 11 through worm shafts 12 and drive shafts 13. The motor 11 is entirely encased in housing 14 which in turn is mounted on base 15. Mounted on base 15 is the casing 16. The ring 18 is mounted on the housing 14 for pivotal movement relative thereto, and an elongated handle 17 is secured to the ring 18 by means of clamp 19.

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The motor housing 14 consists of two members, a primary housing member 20 which is cup-shaped and a housing end plate 21, which provides a cap for the member 20. The two housing members 20 and 21 are secured together by screws 22 which hold the housing end plate 21 firmly against the primary housing member 20. On both sides of the motor housing 14 are worm housings 23. The worm shafts 12 are held in proper position by screws 24 and thrust bearing 25. The brushes 10 are driven by drive shafts 13 which are connected with the worm shafts 12 by suitable gears (not shown).

Lugs 26 extending downwardly from the housing extend into openings in the base 15 which are surrounded by flanges 27. Screws 28 extending upwardly through the base 15 and threaded into lugs 26 hold the motor housing 14 and its associated parts securely in position against the base 15.

Although the handle is shown broken off in all views, it extends upwardly about three to four feet, the normal distance for such handles, and is provided at the upper end with a conventional hand grip. In moving the lower portion of the device, namely the floor polishing machine, over the area to be polished, it is necessary that the handle 17 be mounted in such a way that it can assume various angular positions relatively to the machine. For this reason the handle is mounted for pivotal movement relatively to the lower portion of the device which rides on the floor or other area to be polished.

To accomplish this pivotal movement, the handle 14 is secured by means of clamp 19 to ring 18. The ring 18 is fitted on to the motor housing 14 so that it may rotate about the housing. To ensure smooth relative movement the primary housing member 20 is provided with outwardly extending circumferential ribs 29 and 30, the outer surfaces of which are machined to provide a smooth bearing surface for ring 18. The ring 18 is held against axial movement on one side by small flange 31 on rib 30, and on the other side by the edge of the housing end plate 21 which has an enlarged portion 32 adapted to fit over the rib 29.

The casing 16 is secured to the base 15 by means of three vertical bolts 33. A bumper 33 is provided with an upper lip 34 and a lower lip 35. The upper lip 34 engages flange 36 at the bottom of casing 16 and the lower lip 35 engages the bottom of the base 15. The casing 16 is provided with a slot 37 through which the handle 17 projects and is free to

move.

As is apparent from the above, the entire device is enclosed within casing 16 and base 15 with only the brushes 10 exposed at the bottom and the handle 17 extending out from the top.

As can be seen from Figure 3 the pivot point for the handle 17 is the centre of the circle formed by ring 18 which is approximately the centre of the motor 11. This point is only a very short distance behind the centre of gravity of the machine and is also a small distance above the centre of gravity of the machine. Because of this, when the machine is lifted from the floor with the handle 17 in a vertical position, there is a very small force moment tending to tip the machine from its normally horizontal position. The frictional force between the ring 18 and the motor housing 14 is enough to overcome this tipping moment and thus hold the machine in its horizontal position. It is to be noted that the instant the machine is lifted from the floor, its entire weight acts to increase the frictional force between the motor housing 14 and the ring 18.

It should also be noted that no matter what position the handle 17 assumes during use of the polishing machine, the surface of the brushes extends far enough back to act as a support and prevent any backward tipping due to the downward force applied as the machine is used for polishing.

What we claim is:—

1. A machine for cleaning floors or carpets, comprising a base, a motor housing mounted on the base, said housing being formed of two portions, one portion being a cup-shaped member having spaced circumferential ribs, one of said ribs having a flange thereon, and the other portion being a cap for the first-named portion, the external diameter of said cap being substantially equal to that of said flange, a ring mounted on and surrounding the first-named portion of said housing and bearing on the ribs thereof for rotary movement relative to said housing about a horizontal axis, said ring being held against axial movement by said flange and said cap, and a handle mounted on said ring.

2. A machine for cleaning floors or carpets substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

A. M. & WM. CLARK,
Chartered Patent Agents,
Quality House, 5-9, Quality Court,
Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

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2 SHEETS

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SHEETS 1 & 2

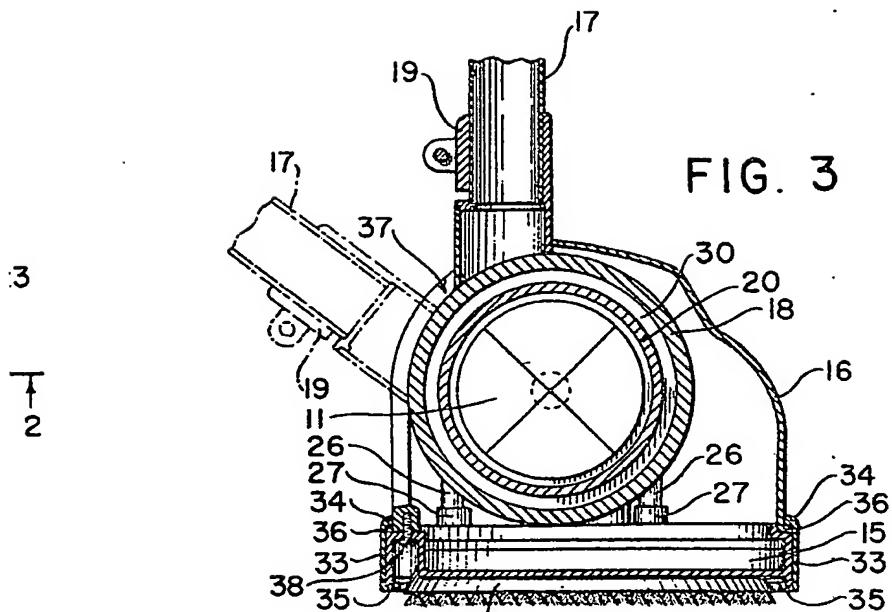


FIG. 3

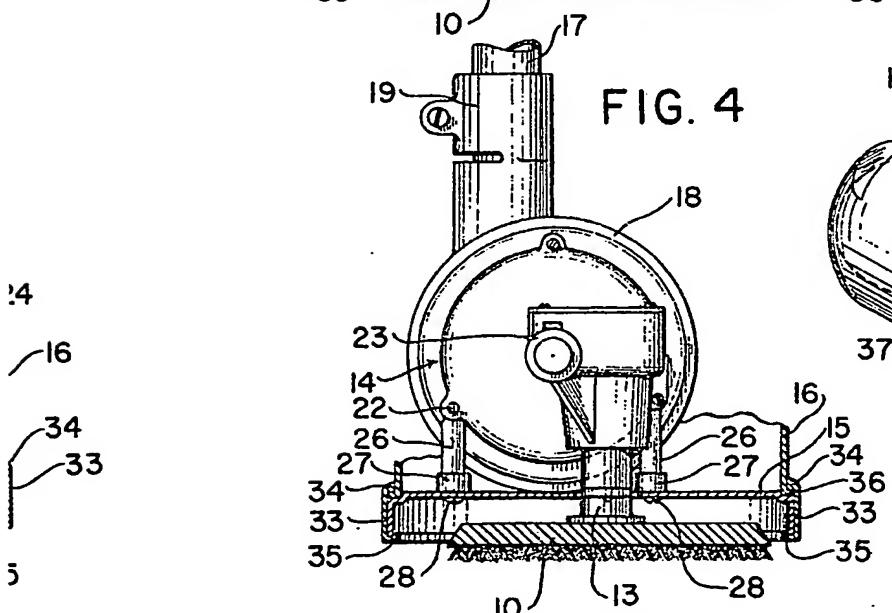


FIG. 4

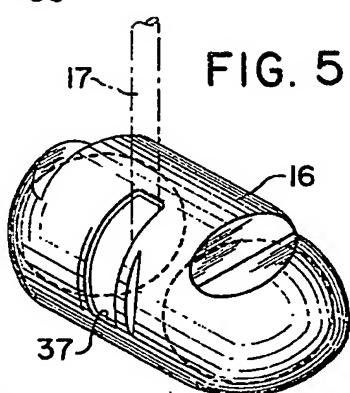
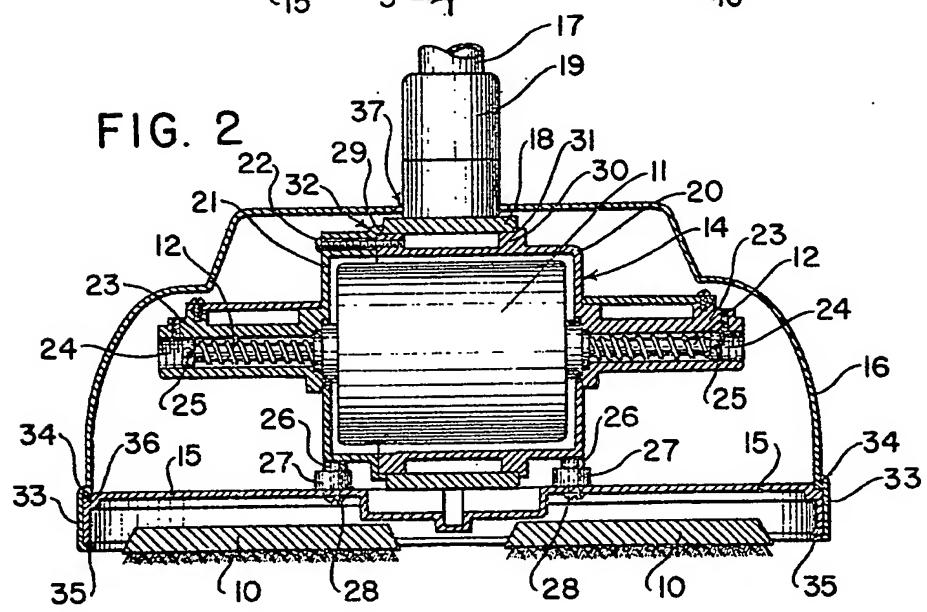
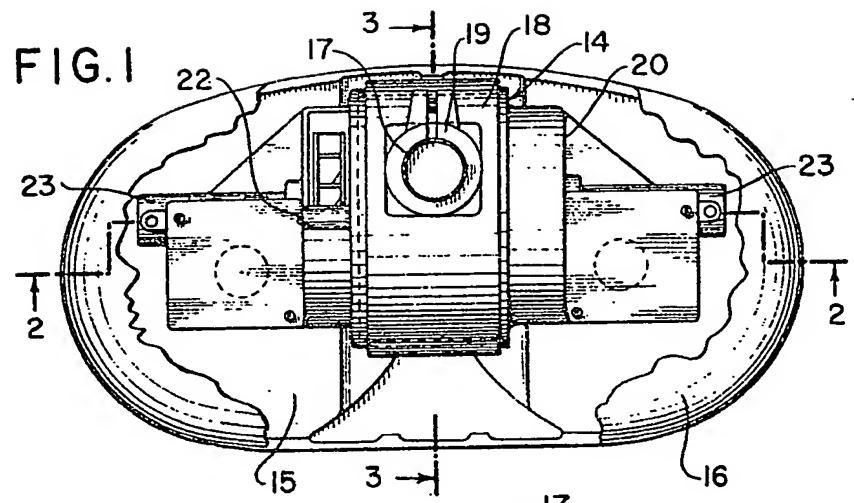


FIG. 5

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SHEETS 1 & 2

